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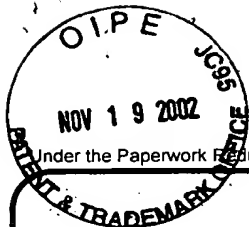
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PTO/SB/30 (10/2001)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002 OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number	09/831,223
Filing Date	July 19, 2001
First Named Inventor	Henning Zschau
Art Unit	2832
Examiner Name	Lincoln D. Donovan
Attorney Docket Number	RBL0076-01

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8,

1. Submission required under 37 CFR §1.114

a. ☐ Previously submitted

- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR §1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

- iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

- iv. ☒ Other Petition for Extension of Time

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i) required)

- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR §1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 02-0385

- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(e)

- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR §§1.136 and 1.17)

- iii. ☐ Other _____

- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 988.00 enclosed

- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print / Type)	Brian C. Pauls	Registration No. (Attorney / Agent)	40,122
Signature		Date	November 19, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark

Name (Print / Type)	
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Date	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

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01 FC:1801	740.00 OP
02 FC:1202	54.00 OP
03 FC:1201	84.00 OP



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
Henning Zschau)
Application No.: 09/831,223)
Filed: July 19, 2001)
Title: RELAY WITH COUPLING ELEMENT)

Group No. 2832

Examiner: Donovan, Lincoln D.

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated July 25, 2002, with a period for response set to expire on October 25, 2002, which has been extended to expire on November 25, 2002 by the enclosed Petition For Extension Of Time. This Amendment is being filed contemporaneously with a Request for Continued Examination and reconsideration of the application identified above is requested. Please amend the present application as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 21-27, 29 and 31-35 and add new claims 39-43 as set forth below:

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21. (Amended) Relay with coupling element, comprising: at least one spring bracket, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs being electrically contactable through a connection contact; characterized in that the relay is mechanically couplable with at least one further relay of the same kind wherein each of the relays have a similar configuration, a coupling element constructed as a separate component-engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element.

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D. EVANS
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